

Docket No. 1377-0170P

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The claims have also been amended to delete multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE**

The specification has been amended to provide cross-referencing to the International Application.

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the concentration of glucose is greater than 5mM.

4. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding claim]Claim 1, wherein the mesangial cells are subjected to mechanical strain.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding claim]Claim 1, wherein transforming growth factor  $\beta 1$  (TGF- $\beta 1$ ) is added to the culture medium.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 1-5]Claim 1, wherein the possibility of differential expression due to hyperosmolarity is excluded.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 1-6]Claim 1, wherein the gene so differentially expressed is a gene which includes a sequence selected from:

- 1) SEQ ID NOS: 1-3;
- 2) SEQ IS NO: 4;

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3) SEQ ID NO: 5; and

4) SEQ ID NO: 6.

8. (Amended) Use of a gene identified by a method according to [any one of Claims 1-7]Claim 1, as a diagnostic marker for the progression and presentation of diabetic nephropathy.

9. (Amended) Use of a gene identified by a method according to [any one of Claims 1-7]Claim 1, as an index of disease activity and the rate of progression of diabetic nephropathy.

10. (Amended) Use of a gene identified by a method according to [any one of Claims 1-7]Claim 1, as a basis for identifying drugs for use in the prevention and/or therapy of diabetic nephropathy.